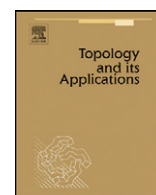


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Compact and precompact sets in asymmetric locally convex spaces

S. Cobzaş¹

Babeş-Bolyai University, Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science, 400 084 Cluj-Napoca, Romania

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ABSTRACT

The aim of the present paper is to study precompactness and compactness within the framework of asymmetric locally convex spaces, defined and studied by the author in [S. Cobzaş, Asymmetric locally convex spaces, *Int. J. Math. Math. Sci.* 2005 (16) (2005) 2585–2608]. The obtained results extend some results on compactness in asymmetric normed spaces proved by [L.M. García-Raffi, Compactness and finite dimension in asymmetric normed linear spaces, *Topology Appl.* 153 (2005) 844–853], and [C. Alegre, I. Ferrando, L.M. García-Raffi, E.A. Sánchez-Pérez, Compactness in asymmetric normed spaces, *Topology Appl.* 155 (6) (2008) 527–539].

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1. Introduction

A quasi-uniformity on a set X is a filter \mathcal{U} in $X \times X$ such that:

(QU1) $\Delta(X) \subset U, \forall U \in \mathcal{U}$;(QU2) $\forall U \in \mathcal{U}, \exists V \in \mathcal{U}$, such that $V \circ V \subset U$,

where $\Delta(X) = \{(x, x): x \in X\}$ denotes the diagonal of X and, for $M, N \subset X \times X$,

$$M \circ N = \{(x, z) \in X \times X: \exists y \in X, (x, y) \in M \text{ and } (y, z) \in N\}.$$

If the filter \mathcal{U} satisfies also the condition

(U3) $\forall U, U \in \mathcal{U} \Rightarrow U^{-1} \in \mathcal{U}$,

where

$$U^{-1} = \{(y, x) \in X \times X: (x, y) \in U\},$$

E-mail address: scobzas@math.ubbcluj.ro.

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then \mathcal{U} is called a *uniformity* on X . The sets in \mathcal{U} are called *entourages*. A *base* for the uniformity \mathcal{U} is a subset \mathcal{B} of \mathcal{U} such that for every $U \in \mathcal{U}$ there exists $B \in \mathcal{B}$ such that $B \subset U$. A *subbase* for \mathcal{U} is a subset \mathcal{D} of \mathcal{U} such that every $U \in \mathcal{U}$ contains a finite intersection of sets in \mathcal{D} .

For $U \in \mathcal{U}$, $x \in X$ and $Z \subset X$ put

$$U(x) = \{y \in X : (x, y) \in U\} \quad \text{and} \quad U[Z] = \bigcup \{U(z) : z \in Z\}.$$

A quasi-uniformity \mathcal{U} generates a topology $\tau(\mathcal{U})$ on X for which the family of sets

$$\{U(x) : U \in \mathcal{U}\}$$

is a base of neighborhoods of the point $x \in X$. The lack of the symmetry, i.e., the omission of the axiom (U3), makes the theory of quasi-uniform spaces to differ drastically from that of uniform spaces, mainly in what concerns completeness, compactness and total boundedness, see [7,8,17,23,24,30,34]. A short survey about these questions is given in [4]. An account of the theory of quasi-metric and quasi-uniform spaces up to 1982 is given in the book by Fletcher and Lindgren [9]. The survey papers by Künzi [18–22] are good guides for subsequent developments. Another book on quasi-uniform spaces is [26].

An asymmetric norm on a real vector space X is a functional $p : X \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ satisfying the conditions:

$$(AN1) \quad p(x) = p(-x) = 0 \Rightarrow x = 0;$$

$$(AN2) \quad p(\alpha x) = \alpha p(x);$$

$$(AN3) \quad p(x + y) \leq p(x) + p(y),$$

for all $x, y \in X$ and $\alpha \geq 0$. If p satisfies only the conditions (AN2) and (AN3), then it is called an *asymmetric seminorm*.

The conjugate of p is the seminorm $\tilde{p} : X \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ defined by $\tilde{p}(x) = p(-x)$, $x \in X$. The functional $\tilde{p}(x) = \max\{p(x), p(-x)\}$, $x \in X$, is a (symmetric) seminorm on X . If p is an asymmetric norm, then \tilde{p} is a norm. The following inequalities hold for every $x, y \in X$,

$$|p(x) - p(y)| \leq \tilde{p}(x - y) \quad \text{and} \quad |\tilde{p}(x) - \tilde{p}(y)| \leq \tilde{p}(x - y).$$

A quasi-metric on a set X is a mapping $\rho : X \times X \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ satisfying the conditions:

$$(QM1) \quad \rho(x, y) = \rho(y, x) = 0 \Leftrightarrow x = y;$$

$$(QM2) \quad \rho(x, z) \leq \rho(x, y) + \rho(y, z),$$

for all $x, y, z \in X$. If the mapping ρ satisfies only the conditions $\rho(x, x) = 0$, $x \in X$, and (QM2), then it is called a *quasi-semimetric*.

If p is an asymmetric norm (seminorm) on a vector space X , then $\rho(x, y) = p(y - x)$, $x, y \in X$, is a quasi-metric (respectively a quasi-semimetric) on X .

A closed, respectively open, ball in a quasi-semimetric space is defined by

$$B_\rho(x, r) = \{y \in X : \rho(x, y) \leq r\}, \quad B'_\rho(x, r) = \{y \in X : \rho(x, y) < r\},$$

for $x \in X$ and $r > 0$. In the case of an asymmetric seminorm p , one denotes by $B_p(x, r)$, $B'_p(x, r)$ the corresponding balls and by $B_p = B_p(0, 1)$, $B'_p = B'_p(0, 1)$, the unit balls. In this case the following equalities hold

$$B_p(x, r) = x + rB_p \quad \text{and} \quad B'_p(x, r) = x + rB'_p.$$

The family of sets $B'_\rho(x, r)$, $r > 0$, is a base of neighborhoods of the point $x \in X$ for the topology τ_ρ on X generated by the quasi-metric ρ . The family $B_\rho(x, r)$, $r > 0$, of closed balls is also a neighborhood base at x for τ_ρ .

The theory of asymmetric normed spaces has been developed in a series of papers [2,4,5,11–13,27,28,31,32], following ideas from the theory of (symmetric) normed spaces and emphasizing similarities as well as differences between the symmetric and the asymmetric case. The developed results found some nontrivial applications to complexity analysis, see, e.g., [14,29,33].

Let X be a real vector space and P a family of asymmetric seminorms on X . Without restricting the generality we can suppose that the family P is directed, that is for every $p_1, p_2 \in P$ there is $p \in P$ such that $p_i \leq p$, $i = 1, 2$, the order being the pointwise order. One defines a topology $\tau(P)$ on X by

$$V \in \mathcal{V}(x) \implies \exists p \in P, \exists r > 0, \quad B'_p(x, r) \subset V,$$

where $\mathcal{V}(x)$ denotes the family of neighborhoods of the point $x \in X$. Asking that $B_p(x, r) \subset V$ for some $p \in P$ and $r > 0$ one obtains the same topology.

It follows that $\tau(P)$ is a translation invariant topology on X , that is

$$V \in \mathcal{V}(x) \implies \exists U \in \mathcal{V}(0), \quad V = x + U.$$

This implies that the addition $+: X \times X \rightarrow X$ is continuous, but the multiplication by scalars $\cdot: \mathbb{R} \times X \rightarrow X$ need not be continuous.

A directed family P of asymmetric seminorms on a vector space X generates a quasi-uniformity \mathcal{U}_P having as a base of entourages of the diagonal the sets

$$U_{p,\epsilon} = \{(x, y) \in X \times X: p(y - x) < \epsilon\}, \quad p \in P, \quad \epsilon > 0.$$

The family

$$\bar{U}_{p,\epsilon} = \{(x, y) \in X \times X: p(y - x) \leq \epsilon\}, \quad p \in P, \quad \epsilon > 0,$$

generates the same quasi-uniformity.

Since $U_{p,\epsilon}(x) = B'_p(x, \epsilon)$ and $\bar{U}_{p,\epsilon}(x) = B_p(x, \epsilon)$, it follows that the quasi-uniformity \mathcal{U}_P generates the topology $\tau(P)$ on X .

In [3] asymmetric locally convex spaces were defined and some of their basic properties were proved: continuity of linear mapping in terms of a semi-Lipschitz condition, linear functionals and weak topologies, the dual space, separation of convex sets, extreme points and the Krein–Milman theorem.

For a family P of asymmetric seminorms on a vector space X put

$$\bar{P} = \{\bar{p}: p \in P\} \quad \text{and} \quad \tilde{P} = \{\tilde{p}: p \in P\}. \quad (1.1)$$

Along this paper, P will always stand for a directed family of asymmetric seminorms on a vector space.

The relations between the topologies generated by P , \bar{P} and \tilde{P} are explained in the following proposition.

Proposition 1.1. *Let P be a directed family of asymmetric seminorms on a real vector space X . Then*

(1) *For every $p \in P$, $x \in X$ and $\epsilon > 0$,*

$$B'_p(x, \epsilon) = B'_p(x, \epsilon) \cap B'_{\bar{p}}(x, \epsilon) \quad \text{and} \quad B_{\bar{p}}(x, \epsilon) = B_p(x, \epsilon) \cap B_{\tilde{p}}(x, \epsilon).$$

(2) *Any $\tau(P)$ -open set is $\tau(\tilde{P})$ -open and any $\tau(\bar{P})$ -open set is $\tau(\tilde{P})$ -open, that is $\tau(P) \subset \tau(\tilde{P})$ and $\tau(\bar{P}) \subset \tau(\tilde{P})$. The same inclusions hold for the corresponding closed sets.*

(3) *Any $\tau(P)$ -continuous (or $\tau(\bar{P})$ -continuous) mapping f from X to a topological space T is $\tau(\tilde{P})$ -continuous.*

(4) *A ball $B'_p(x, r)$ is $\tau(P)$ -open. A ball $B_p(x, r)$ is $\tau(\bar{P})$ -closed and it could be not $\tau(P)$ -closed.*

Proof. The assertions (1) and (2) are immediate and (3) is a consequence of (2), so we only need to prove (4).

For $y \in B'_p(x, r)$ let $r' := r - p(y - x) > 0$. Since $p(z - y) < r'$ implies $p(z - x) \leq p(z - y) + p(y - x) < r' + p(y - x) = r$ it follows $B'_p(y, r') \subset B'_p(x, r)$.

To prove that $B_p(x, r)$ is $\tau(\bar{P})$ -closed let $y \in X \setminus B_p(x, r)$. Then $r' := p(y - x) - r > 0$ and $B'_{\bar{p}}(y, r') \subset X \setminus B_p(x, r)$. Indeed, if there would exist an element $z \in B_p(x, r) \cap B'_{\bar{p}}(y, r')$, then one obtains the contradiction

$$p(y - x) \leq p(y - z) + p(z - x) = \bar{p}(y - z) + p(z - x) < r' + r = p(y - x).$$

Consequently, $X \setminus B_p(x, r)$ is $\tau(\bar{P})$ -open and so $B_p(x, r)$ is $\tau(\bar{P})$ -closed. \square

Example 1.2. In \mathbb{R} with the upper topology τ_u , where $u(x) = \max\{x, 0\}$, $x \in \mathbb{R}$, we have $B_u(0, 1) = (-\infty; 1]$ and $\mathbb{R} \setminus B_u(0, 1) = (1; +\infty)$ is τ_u -open, but not τ_u -open.

Remark 1.3. As a space with two topologies, $\tau(P)$ and $\tau(\bar{P})$, an asymmetric LCS is also a bitopological space in the sense of Kelly [16].

The topology $\tau(P)$ is not Hausdorff in general. For instance, the space (\mathbb{R}, τ_u) from Example 1.2 is T_0 but not T_1 . Indeed, if $x < y$, then for $\epsilon := (y - x)/2$, $y \notin (-\infty, x + \epsilon)$, but every neighborhood of y contains x .

We have:

Proposition 1.4. *Let P be a directed family of asymmetric seminorms on a real vector space X .*

(1) *The topology $\tau(P)$ is T_0 if and only if for every $x \in X$, $p(x) = p(-x) = 0$ for all $p \in P$ implies $x = 0$.*

(2) *The topology $\tau(P)$ is T_1 if and only if for every $x \neq 0$ there exists $p \in P$ such that $p(x) > 0$.*

Proof. (1) Suppose that $\tau(P)$ is T_0 and let $x \neq 0$ be an element of X . Then there exist $p \in P$ and $r > 0$ such that $x \notin B'_p(0, r)$, implying $p(x) \geq r > 0$, or there exist $q \in P$ and $s > 0$ such that $0 \notin B'_q(x, s)$, implying $q(-x) = q(0 - x) \geq s > 0$.

Conversely, suppose that the condition on P holds and let $x, y \in X$, $x \neq y$. By hypothesis, there exists $p \in P$ such that $p(x - y) > 0$ or $p(y - x) > 0$. Then $x \notin B'_p(y, r)$ in the first case, with $r := p(x - y)$, while $y \notin B'_p(x, r')$ in the second one, with $r' = p(y - x)$.

(2) Suppose that $\tau(P)$ is T_1 and let $x \in X$, $x \neq 0$. By hypothesis, there exist $p \in P$ and $r > 0$ such that $x \notin B'_p(0, r)$, implying $p(x) \geq r > 0$.

Conversely, suppose that for every $x \neq 0$ in X there exists $p \in P$ with $p(x) > 0$. If $x, y \in X$, $x \neq y$, then there exists $p, q \in P$ such that $r := p(x - y) > 0$ and $r' := q(y - x) > 0$, implying $x \notin B_p(y, r)$ and $y \notin B_q(x, r')$. \square

The characterization of Hausdorff separation is more complicated and was done in [12] in the case of asymmetric normed spaces and extended to asymmetric LCS in [3]. For an asymmetric seminorm $p : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ let $p^\diamond : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be defined by

$$p^\diamond(x) = \inf\{p(y) + p(y - x) : y \in X\}, \quad x \in X.$$

It follows that p^\diamond is a (symmetric) seminorm on X and $p^\diamond \leq p$. Moreover, p^\diamond is the greatest seminorm majorized by p .

Proposition 1.5. ([3,12]) Let X be a real vector space, P a family of asymmetric seminorms on X and $P^\diamond = \{p^\diamond : p \in P\}$.

The topology $\tau(P)$ is Hausdorff (or T_2) if and only if for every $x \in X$, $x \neq 0$, there exists $p \in P$ such that $p^\diamond(x) > 0$.

In particular, the topology τ_p generated by a seminorm p on a vector space X is Hausdorff if and only if $p^\diamond(x) > 0$ for every $x \neq 0$, that is, if and only if p^\diamond is a norm on X .

A topological space (T, τ) is called *regular* or T_3 if it is T_1 and for each $t \in T$ and each closed subset S of T not containing t there are disjoint open subsets U, V of T such that $t \in U$ and $S \subset V$. In other words a point and a closed set not containing it can be separated by open sets. The space T is called *completely regular*, or *Tychonoff*, or $T_{3\frac{1}{2}}$, if for every $t \in T$ and every closed subset S of T not containing t there is a continuous function $f : T \rightarrow [0, 1]$ such that $f(t) = 1$ and $f(s) = 0$ for each $s \in S$. A strong result in functional analysis asserts that a T_0 topological vector space is completely regular (see [25, Theorem 2.2.14]). The example of the space \mathbb{R} with the upper topology τ_u , which is T_0 but not T_1 , shows that this result is not longer true in asymmetric normed spaces. Proposition 1.8 below shows that a finite dimensional asymmetric LCS which is T_1 is, in fact, a Hausdorff topological vector space, so it is also completely regular. I do not know if a similar result holds in the infinite dimensional case.

It is well known that any finite dimensional Hausdorff topological vector space X is topologically isomorphic with the Euclidean \mathbb{R}^m , where $m = \dim X$. García-Raffi [10] proved that the result still holds for finite dimensional T_1 asymmetric normed spaces. Following the ideas from [10] we shall extend in this paper this result to asymmetric LCS, a setting which requires nets instead of sequences (see, e.g., [6] or [15]). A net in a topological space X is a mapping $\varphi : I \rightarrow X$, where I is a directed set. A net is also denoted by $(x_i : i \in I)$, where $x_i = \varphi(i)$. A subset J of I is called *cofinal* in I provided for every $i \in I$ there exists $j \in J$ with $i \leq j$. One says that a net $\psi : J \rightarrow X$ is a *subnet* of the net $\varphi : I \rightarrow X$ if there exists a monotone mapping $\lambda : J \rightarrow I$ (i.e., $j_1 \leq j_2$ implies $\lambda(j_1) \leq \lambda(j_2)$) such that $\psi = \varphi \circ \lambda$ and $\lambda(J)$ is cofinal in I . A subnet of the net $(x_i : i \in I)$ can be denoted also by $(x_{\lambda(j)} : j \in J)$. If J is a cofinal subset of I , then $(x_j : j \in J)$ is a subnet of $(x_i : i \in I)$. It is clear that, if J_1 is a cofinal subset of the directed set I and J_2 is a cofinal subset of J_1 , then J_2 is also a cofinal subset of I .

The following result is probably well-known, but for the sake of reader convenience we include a proof.

Lemma 1.6. Let (I, \leq) be a directed set. If $I = J_1 \cup \dots \cup J_m$, where J_k are nonempty subsets of I , $k = 1, \dots, m$, then at least one of the sets J_k is cofinal in I .

Proof. If J_1 is a cofinal subsets of I , then we are done. If J_1 is not cofinal in I , then there exists $i_1 \in I$ such that there is no $j \in J_1$ with $i_1 \leq j$. Putting

$$I_1 = \{i \in I : i \neq i_1 \text{ and } i_1 \leq i\},$$

it follows $I_1 \subset J_2 \cup \dots \cup J_m$. We distinct two cases.

(I) $I_1 = \emptyset$.

In this case i_1 is the greatest element of I . Indeed for $i \in I$ there exists $i_2 \in I$ such that $i_1 \leq i_2$ and $i \leq i_2$. By hypothesis $i_2 = i_1$, so that $i \leq i_1$. If $k \in \{1, \dots, m\}$ is such that $i_1 \in J_k$, then J_k is a cofinal subset of I .

(II) $I_1 \neq \emptyset$.

In this case the set I_1 is cofinal in I . Indeed, since I_1 is nonempty there exists an element $j_1 \in I_1$. If $i \in I$ is arbitrary, then there exists $j \in I$ such that $i \leq j$ and $j_1 \leq j$, implying $j \in I_1$ and $i \leq j$. Since I_1 is contained in $J_2 \cup \dots \cup J_m$, it follows that $J_2 \cup \dots \cup J_m$ is also a cofinal subset of I .

Repeating the argument with $J_2 \cup \dots \cup J_m$ instead of I and continuing in this manner, we get that some J_k is a cofinal subset of I . \square

An immediate consequence of this lemma is the following proposition.

Proposition 1.7. *If Y is a $\tau(P)$ -closed subset of an asymmetric LCS (X, P) , then $Z + Y$ is $\tau(P)$ -closed for every finite subset Z of X .*

Proof. Let $Z = \{z_1, \dots, z_m\}$ and let $(x_i: i \in I)$ be a net in $Z + Y$ which is $\tau(P)$ -convergent to some $x \in X$. Then for every $i \in I$ there exists $k_i \in \{1, \dots, m\}$ and $y_i \in Y$ such that $x_i = z_{k_i} + y_i$. If for every $k \in \{1, \dots, m\}$ the set J_k is defined by $J_k = \{i \in I: x_i = z_k + y_i\}$, then $I = J_1 \cup \dots \cup J_m$, so that, by Lemma 1.6, there exists $k \in \{1, \dots, m\}$ such that the set J_k is cofinal in I . But then $x_j = z_k + y_j$, $j \in J_k$, is a subnet of the net $(x_i: i \in I)$, so it is $\tau(P)$ -convergent to x . It follows that for every $p \in P$,

$$p(y_j - (x - z_k)) = p(z + y_j - x) \rightarrow 0, \quad j \in J_k,$$

which shows that $(y_j: j \in J_k)$ is $\tau(P)$ -convergent to $x - z_k$. Since Y is $\tau(P)$ -closed, $x - z_k$ belongs to Y , implying $x \in z_k + Y \subset Z + Y$. \square

The isomorphism result is the following.

Proposition 1.8. *Let (X, P) be an asymmetric LCS whose topology $\tau(P)$ is T_1 . If X is finite dimensional with $\dim X = m$, then it is topologically isomorphic with the Euclidean space \mathbb{R}^m .*

The proposition will be an immediate consequence of the following lemma, proved in the case of an asymmetric normed space in [10].

Lemma 1.9. *Let (X, P) be an asymmetric LCS of finite dimension $m \geq 1$ with basis e_1, \dots, e_m and let $x_i = \alpha_{1,i}e_1 + \dots + \alpha_{m,i}e_m$, $i \in I$, be a net in X .*

- (1) *If for every $k \in \{1, \dots, m\}$ the net $(\alpha_{k,i})$ converges in \mathbb{R} to some $\alpha_k \in \mathbb{R}$, then the net (x_i) converges to $x = \alpha_1e_1 + \dots + \alpha_me_m$ with respect to the topology $\tau(P)$.*
- (2) *If the topology $\tau(P)$ is T_1 and the net (x_i) converges with respect to $\tau(P)$ to $x = \alpha_1e_1 + \dots + \alpha_me_m$, then the net $(\alpha_{k,i})$ converges in \mathbb{R} to α_k for every $k \in \{1, \dots, m\}$.*

Proof. (1) For any $p \in P$,

$$p(x_i - x) = p\left(\sum_{k=1}^m (\alpha_{k,i} - \alpha_k)e_k\right) \leq \tilde{p}\left(\sum_{k=1}^m (\alpha_{k,i} - \alpha_k)e_k\right) \leq \sum_{k=1}^m |\alpha_{k,i} - \alpha_k| \tilde{p}(e_k) \rightarrow 0, \quad \text{for } i \in I.$$

Here $\tilde{p}(x) = \max\{p(x), p(-x)\}$ denotes the symmetric norm associated to p .

(2) Suppose, by contradiction, that $p(x_i) \rightarrow 0$ for every $p \in P$, but at least one of the nets $(\alpha_{k,i})$, say $(\alpha_{1,i})$, does not converge to 0 in \mathbb{R} . Then there exists $\epsilon > 0$ such that for every $i \in I$ there exists $j \in I$, $j \geq i$, such that $|\alpha_{1,j}| \geq \epsilon$. This implies that the set $J = \{j \in I: |\alpha_{1,j}| \geq \epsilon\}$ is cofinal in I , and, consequently, $(x_j: j \in J)$ is a subnet of $(x_i: i \in I)$, so it also converges to 0 with respect to $\tau(P)$. It follows also that $M_j := \max\{|\alpha_{k,j}|: 1 \leq k \leq m\} \geq \epsilon$ for all $j \in J$.

If $y_j := M_j^{-1}x_j$, $j \in J$, then

$$p(y_j) = \frac{1}{M_j} p(x_j) \leq \frac{1}{\epsilon} p(x_j) \rightarrow 0, \quad j \in J.$$

Writing $y_j = \beta_{1,j}e_1 + \dots + \beta_{m,j}e_m$, $j \in J$, it follows that for every $j \in J$, $|\beta_{k,j}| \leq 1$, $k = 1, \dots, m$, and at least one of the numbers $\beta_{k,j}$ has modulus one.

If $J_k := \{j \in J: |\beta_{k,j}| = 1\}$, $k = 1, \dots, m$, then, by Lemma 1.6, at least one of the sets J_k , say J_1 , is cofinal in J . By the same lemma, one of the sets $J_1^s = \{j \in J_1: \beta_{1,j} = (-1)^s\}$, $s = 1, 2$, is cofinal in J_1 . Denote it by A_1 . Since the net $(\beta_{2,j}: j \in A_1)$ is bounded, there exists a subnet $(\beta_{2,\alpha}: \alpha \in A_2)$ of it converging to some $\beta_2 \in \mathbb{R}$. Similarly, the bounded net $(\beta_{3,\alpha}: \alpha \in A_2)$ contains a subnet $(\beta_{3,\alpha}: \alpha \in A_3)$ converging to some $\beta_3 \in \mathbb{R}$. Continuing in this way we obtain the subnets $(\beta_{k,\alpha}: \alpha \in A_m)$ converging to $\beta_k \in \mathbb{R}$ for every $k = 1, \dots, m$, with $|\beta_1| = 1$. Let $z_\alpha = \beta_{1,\alpha}e_1 + \dots + \beta_{m,\alpha}e_m$, $\alpha \in A_m$, and $z := \beta_1e_1 + \dots + \beta_me_m \neq 0$. By the first part of the lemma, the net $(-z_\alpha)$ is $\tau(P)$ -convergent to $-z$, which is equivalent to $p(-z_\alpha + z) \rightarrow 0$ for every $p \in P$. Since $\tau(P)$ is T_1 , there exists $p_0 \in P$ such that $p_0(z) > 0$. It follows

$$0 < p_0(z) \leq p_0(-z_\alpha + z) + p_0(z_\alpha),$$

in contradiction to the fact that $p_0(z_\alpha) \rightarrow 0$. \square

2. Precompact sets

A subset Y of a quasi-uniform space (X, \mathcal{U}) is called *precompact* if for every $U \in \mathcal{U}$ there exists a finite subset Z of Y such that $Y \subset U[Z]$. The set Y is called *totally bounded* if for every U there exists a finite family A_1, \dots, A_n of subsets of Y such that $A_i \times A_i \subset U$, $i = 1, \dots, n$, and $Y \subset \bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i$. Note that the total boundedness with respect to \mathcal{U} is equivalent to the total boundedness with respect to the associated uniformity \mathcal{U}_s .

If in the above definition of precompactness one asks that the finite set Z be contained in X , then one obtains the notions of *outside precompactness* considered in [1]. Obviously, the precompactness implies the outside precompactness, but the reverse implication is not true, even in asymmetric normed spaces, [1]. In uniform spaces the total boundedness, the precompactness and the outside precompactness agree, and a set is compact if and only if it is totally bounded and complete.

If p is an asymmetric seminorm on a vector space X , we say that a subset Y of X is *p-precompact* if for every $\epsilon > 0$ there exists a finite subset Z of Y such that

$$Y \subset \bigcup_{z \in Z} B'_p(z, \epsilon). \quad (2.1)$$

If for every $\epsilon > 0$ there exists a finite subset Z of X such that (2.1) holds, then the set Y is called *outside p-precompact*. One obtains an equivalent notion if one asks that Y is covered by the family $B_p(z, \epsilon)$, $z \in Z$, of closed balls. The set Z is called also a (p, ϵ) -net for Y (in both cases).

A subset of an asymmetric LCS (X, P) is called *precompact* if it is precompact with respect to the quasi-uniformity \mathcal{U}_p . The following proposition contains a useful characterization of precompactness in asymmetric LCS in terms of seminorms. The proof follows immediately from the definition of the quasi-uniformity \mathcal{U}_p (the fact that $U_{p, \epsilon}(x) = B'_p(x, \epsilon)$).

Proposition 2.1. *A subset Y of an asymmetric LCS (X, P) is (outside) precompact if and only if it is (outside) p-precompact for every $p \in P$.*

Based on this proposition, the method from [1, Proposition 4] can be adapted to obtain the following relation between precompactness and outside precompactness.

Proposition 2.2. *Let (X, P) be an asymmetric LCS. A subset Y of X is P-precompact if and only if for every $p \in P$ and every $\epsilon > 0$ and there exists a finite subset $\{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$ of X such that $Y \subset \bigcup_{i=1}^n B'_p(x_i, \epsilon)$ and $Y \cap B'_p(x_i, \epsilon) \neq \emptyset$ for every $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$.*

As a consequence of Proposition 1.1, one obtains the following relations between various notions of compactness and precompactness. A subset Y of an asymmetric LCS (X, P) is called *P-bounded* provided $\sup\{p(y) : y \in Y\} < \infty$ for every $p \in P$. This is equivalent to the fact that it is absorbed by every $\tau(P)$ -neighborhood of 0, that is for every $\tau(P)$ -neighborhood V of 0 there exists $\lambda > 0$ such that $\lambda Y \subset V$, or, in other words, Y is topologically bounded.

Proposition 2.3. *Let (X, P) be an asymmetric LCS and Y a subset of X .*

- (1) *If the set Y is \bar{P} -precompact, then it is P-precompact and \bar{P} -precompact. The same is true for the outside precompactness.*
- (2) *If the set Y is $\tau(\bar{P})$ -compact, then it is $\tau(P)$ -compact and $\tau(\bar{P})$ -compact.*
- (3) *The outside P-precompact subsets of X are P-bounded. In particular, the P-precompact subsets of X are P-bounded as well.*
- (4) *A subset of X is P-precompact if and only if its $\tau(\bar{P})$ -closure is P-precompact. The same is true for outside P-precompactness.*

Proof. (1) For $\epsilon > 0$ and $p \in P$ there exists a finite subset $\{y_1, \dots, y_n\}$ of Y such that $Y \subset \bigcup_{i=1}^n B'_p(y_i, \epsilon)$, and so Y is P-precompact. Since $B'_p(y_i, \epsilon) \subset B'_p(y_i, \epsilon)$, $i = 1, \dots, n$, it follows $Y \subset \bigcup_{i=1}^n B'_p(y_i, \epsilon)$. Similarly, $B'_p(y_i, \epsilon) \subset B'_p(y_i, \epsilon)$, $i = 1, \dots, n$, implies $Y \subset \bigcup_{i=1}^n B'_p(y_i, \epsilon)$, showing that Y is \bar{P} -precompact. The case of outside precompactness can be treated exactly in the same way.

(2) Let $\{G_i : i \in I\}$ be a covering of Y with $\tau(P)$ -open sets. Since $\tau(P) \subset \tau(\bar{P})$ and Y is $\tau(\bar{P})$ -compact, there exists a finite subset J of I such that $Y \subset \bigcup_{j \in J} G_j$, proving the $\tau(P)$ -compactness of Y . Similarly, the inclusion $\tau(\bar{P}) \subset \tau(P)$ implies the $\tau(\bar{P})$ -compactness of the $\tau(\bar{P})$ -compact set Y .

(3) For $p \in P$ there exists a finite subset $\{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$ of X such that $Y \subset \{x_1, \dots, x_n\} + B_p(0, 1)$, implying $p(y) \leq \max\{p(x_i) : 1 \leq i \leq n\} + 1$ for every $y \in Y$.

(4) We give a proof different from that in [1]. Suppose first that Y is P-precompact and show that $Z = \tau(\bar{P})\text{-cl } Y$ is also P-precompact, which is equivalent to the fact that Z is p-precompact for every $p \in P$.

Let $p \in P$ and $\epsilon > 0$. Since Y is p-precompact there exists $y_1, \dots, y_n \in Y$ such that

$$Y \subset \bigcup_{i=1}^n B_p(y_i, \epsilon). \quad (2.2)$$

By Proposition 1.1(4) the ball $B_p(0, \epsilon)$ is $\tau(\bar{P})$ -closed, so that, by Proposition 1.7, the set

$$\bigcup_{i=1}^n B_p(y_i, \epsilon) = \{y_1, \dots, y_n\} + B_p(0, \epsilon)$$

is also $\tau(\bar{P})$ -closed. But then, the inclusion (2.2) implies

$$\tau(\bar{P})\text{-cl } Y \subset \bigcup_{i=1}^n B_p(y_i, \epsilon).$$

Conversely, suppose that $Z = \tau(\bar{P})\text{-cl } Y$ is P -precompact and prove that Y is P -precompact.

For $p \in P$ and $\epsilon > 0$ there exist $z_1, \dots, z_n \in Z$ such that

$$Z \subset \bigcup_{i=1}^n B'_p(z_i, \epsilon). \quad (2.3)$$

For every $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ there exists $y_i \in Y \cap B'_p(z_i, \epsilon)$, that is an $y_i \in Y$ such that $\bar{p}(y_i - z_i) < \epsilon$, or, equivalently, $p(z_i - y_i) < \epsilon$.

Let $y \in Y \subset Z$. By (2.3) there exists $j \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ such that $y \in B'_p(z_j, \epsilon)$. But then

$$p(y - y_j) \leq p(y - z_j) + p(z_j - y_j) < 2\epsilon,$$

showing that $Y \subset \bigcup_{i=1}^n B'_p(y_i, 2\epsilon)$.

In the case of outside precompactness, a subset of an outside precompact set is also outside precompact, so the outside precompactness of the $\tau(\bar{P})$ -closure of Y implies the outside precompactness of Y . The reverse implication can be proved exactly as in the case of the precompactness. \square

Remark 2.4. In the case of asymmetric normed spaces, the result from the assertion 4 of the above proposition was proved by García-Raffi [10, Proposition 9].

The following proposition, a consequence of Proposition 1.8, extends to the asymmetric case a well-known characterization of finite dimensional topological vector spaces. For the proof we need a lemma.

Lemma 2.5. Let (X, P) be an asymmetric LCS, $Q \subset P$ and $D \subset \mathbb{R}$ such that the family $\{B_q(0, r): q \in Q, r \in D\}$ is a basis of $\tau(P)$ -neighborhoods of 0. Then

$$\tau(P)\text{-cl } Y = \bigcap \{Y + B_{\bar{q}}(0, r): q \in Q, r \in D\}, \quad (2.4)$$

for every subset Y of X .

Proof. Let $x \in \tau(P)\text{-cl } Y$, $q \in Q$ and $r \in D$. Then $x + B_q(0, r)$ is a $\tau(P)$ -neighborhood of x , so that $Y \cap (x + B_q(0, r)) \neq \emptyset$, implying $x + u = y$, for some $u \in B_q(0, r)$ and $y \in Y$. But

$$u \in B_q(0, r) \iff q(u) \leq r \iff \bar{q}(-u) \leq r \iff -u \in B_{\bar{q}}(0, r),$$

so that $x = y - u \in Y + B_{\bar{q}}(0, r)$.

Conversely, suppose that x belongs to the intersection from the right-hand side of the equality (2.4). For a $\tau(P)$ -neighborhood V_0 of 0, let $q \in Q$ and $r \in D$ be such that $B_q(0, r) \subset V_0$. By hypothesis, $x = y + v$ for some $y \in Y$ and $v \in B_{\bar{q}}(0, r)$, which, as above, implies that

$$y = x - v \in x + B_q(0, r) \subset x + V_0.$$

Consequently, $(x + V_0) \cap Y \neq \emptyset$, showing that $x \in \tau(P)\text{-cl } Y$. \square

Proposition 2.6. Let (X, P) be an asymmetric LCS whose topology $\tau(P)$ is T_1 . Then X is finite dimensional if and only if there exists an outside P -precompact $\tau(P)$ -neighborhood of 0.

Proof. *Necessity.* If $\dim X = m$, then, by Proposition 1.8, it is isomorphic, algebraically and topologically, with the Euclidean space \mathbb{R}^m . Let $\Phi: \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow X$ be an isomorphism. Since the closed unit ball $B_{\mathbb{R}^m}$ is a compact neighborhood of $0 \in \mathbb{R}^m$, its image by Φ will be a $\tau(P)$ -compact neighborhood of $0 \in X$ which will be outside P -precompact.

Sufficiency. Let $U = B_{p_0}(0, r_0)$ be an outside P -precompact $\tau(P)$ -neighborhood of 0. Then there exists a finite subset $\{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$ of X such that

$$U \subset \{x_1, \dots, x_n\} + \frac{1}{2}U$$

implying

$$U \subset Z + \frac{1}{2}U, \quad (2.5)$$

where $Z = \text{lin}\{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$ is the linear space generated by $\{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$. By (2.5),

$$\frac{1}{2}U \subset \frac{1}{2}Z + \frac{1}{2^2}U = Z + \frac{1}{2^2}U,$$

so that

$$U \subset Z + \frac{1}{2}U \subset Z + Z + \frac{1}{2^2}U = Z + \frac{1}{2^2}U.$$

Repeating the argument, one obtains

$$U \subset Z + \frac{1}{2^n}U, \quad (2.6)$$

for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

We show that $\{\frac{1}{2^n}U : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$ is a basis of $\tau(P)$ -neighborhoods of 0. For a $\tau(P)$ -neighborhood V of 0, there exists $p \in P$ and $r > 0$ such that $B_p(0, r) \subset V$. Since a P -precompact set is topologically bounded (with respect to $\tau(P)$), there exists $\lambda > 0$ such that $\lambda U = \lambda B_{p_0}(0, r_0) \subset B_p(0, r)$. If $n \in \mathbb{N}$ is such that $2^{-n} < \lambda$, then

$$\frac{1}{2^n}U = \frac{1}{2^n}B_{p_0}(0, r_0) \subset \lambda B_{p_0}(0, r_0) \subset B_p(0, r) \subset V.$$

It is easy to check that $\{\frac{1}{2^n}B_{\bar{p}_0}(0, r_0) : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$ is a basis of $\tau(\bar{P})$ -neighborhoods of 0, so that, by Lemma 2.5 and by (2.6),

$$U \subset \bigcap \left\{ Z + \frac{1}{2^n}U : n \in \mathbb{N} \right\} = \tau(\bar{P})\text{-cl } Z. \quad (2.7)$$

If we show that $\tau(\bar{P})\text{-cl } Z = Z$, then by (2.7), for every $x \in X \setminus \{0\}$ there exists $\lambda > 0$ such that $\lambda x \in U \subset Z$, showing that $X = Z$ is finite dimensional.

Let $x \in \tau(\bar{P})\text{-cl } Z \setminus Z$. Suppose that $\dim Z = m$ and let e_1, \dots, e_m be an algebraic basis of Z . The space $W = \text{lin}(Z \cup \{x\})$ has dimension $m + 1$ and e_1, \dots, e_m, x is an algebraic basis of W . Since $\{\frac{1}{2^n}B_{\bar{p}_0}(0, r_0) : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$ is a basis of $\tau(\bar{P})$ -neighborhoods of 0, it follows that the topology $\tau(\bar{P})$ is generated by \bar{p}_0 , so we can work with sequences. Suppose that $z_k = \alpha_{1,k}e_1 + \dots + \alpha_{m,k}e_m + 0 \cdot x$, $k \in \mathbb{N}$, is a sequence in Z which converges to $x = 0 \cdot e_1 + \dots + 0 \cdot e_m + 1 \cdot x$. Since the topology $\tau(P)$ is T_1 , Proposition 1.4(2), implies that the topology $\tau(\bar{P})$ is also T_1 . By Lemma 1.9, $\lim_k \alpha_{i,k} = 0$, $i = 1, \dots, m$, and $0 = \lim_k \alpha_{m+1,k} = \alpha_{m+1} = 1$, a contradiction. Consequently, $\tau(\bar{P})\text{-cl } Z = Z$, and Proposition 2.6 is completely proved. \square

The following proposition is the analog of a known result in normed spaces. In the case of asymmetric normed spaces it was proved in [1, Proposition 8].

Proposition 2.7. *If Y is a precompact subset of an asymmetric LCS (X, P) , then the convex hull $\text{co } Y$ of Y is also precompact.*

Proof. By Proposition 2.1 it is sufficient to show that $\text{co } Y$ is p -precompact for every $p \in P$.

Let $p \in P$ and $\epsilon > 0$. By the precompactness of Y there exists a finite subset $\{y_1^0, \dots, y_n^0\}$ of Y such that

$$Y \subset \bigcup_{i=1}^n B_p(y_i^0, \epsilon). \quad (2.8)$$

The set $W = \text{co}\{y_1^0, \dots, y_n^0\}$ is contained in the finite dimensional space $Z = \text{sp}\{y_1^0, \dots, y_n^0\}$ which is isomorphic to \mathbb{R}^k for some $k \in \mathbb{N}$. The Euclidean norm on \mathbb{R}^k induces, by this isomorphism, a norm $\|\cdot\|$ on Z . Since all the norms are equivalent on Z , it follows that the set W is compact with respect to the norm $\tilde{p}(\cdot) + \|\cdot\|$, so it is $(\tilde{p}(\cdot) + \|\cdot\|)$ -precompact and, a fortiori, p -precompact. Let $\{w_1^0, \dots, w_m^0\} \subset W$ be such that

$$W \subset \bigcup_{i=1}^m B_p(w_i^0, \epsilon). \quad (2.9)$$

We show that

$$Y \subset \bigcup_{i=1}^m B_p(w_i^0, 2\epsilon). \quad (2.10)$$

Let $x \in \text{co } Y$, $x = \sum_{i=1}^l \alpha_i y_i$ for some $\alpha_i \geq 0$, $y_i \in Y$, $i = 1, \dots, l$, $\sum_{i=1}^l \alpha_i = 1$. By (2.8), for every $i \in \{1, \dots, l\}$ there exists $j(i) \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ such that $p(y_i - y_{j(i)}^0) \leq \epsilon$. Putting $w := \sum_{i=1}^l \alpha_i y_{j(i)}^0$, it follows

$$p(x - w) = p\left(\sum_{i=1}^l \alpha_i (y_i - y_{j(i)}^0)\right) \leq \sum_{i=1}^l \alpha_i p(y_i - y_{j(i)}^0) \leq \epsilon.$$

Since $w \in W$, the equality (2.9) implies the existence of $i_0 \in \{1, \dots, m\}$ such that $p(w - w_{i_0}^0) \leq \epsilon$. But then

$$p(x - w_{i_0}^0) \leq p(x - w) + p(w - w_{i_0}^0) \leq 2\epsilon,$$

showing that (2.10) holds. \square

Some relations between precompactness and compactness in asymmetric normed spaces were studied in [10] and [1]. We shall extend some of these results to asymmetric LCS.

Let (X, P) be an asymmetric LCS. For $p \in P$ let

$$\theta_{0,p} = \{z \in X : p(z) = 0\} \quad \text{and} \quad \theta_0 = \bigcap_{p \in P} \theta_{0,p}.$$

Let also

$$\theta_{x,p} = \{z \in X : p(z - x) = 0\} = x + \theta_{0,p}.$$

It is immediate that θ_x agrees with the $\tau(\bar{P})$ -closure of the set $\{x\}$. Indeed

$$\begin{aligned} y \in \tau(\bar{P})\text{-cl}\{x\} &\iff \forall p \in P, \forall \epsilon > 0, \bar{p}(x - y) < \epsilon \\ &\iff \forall p \in P, \bar{p}(x - y) = 0 \\ &\iff \forall p \in P, p(y - x) = 0 \\ &\iff y \in \theta_x. \end{aligned}$$

As it was shown in [10]

$$B'_p(x, \epsilon) = B'_p(x, \epsilon) + \theta_{0,p}.$$

Based on this equality one obtains immediately that

$$Y = Y + \theta_0,$$

for every $\tau(P)$ -open subset Y of X . Indeed, $0 \in \theta_0$ implies $Y \subset Y + \theta_0$. Conversely, let $x = y + z$ for some $y \in Y$ and $z \in \theta_0$. Since Y is $\tau(P)$ -open there exist $p \in P$ and $\epsilon > 0$ such that $B'_p(y, \epsilon) \subset Y$, implying $x = y + z \in B'_p(y, \epsilon) + \theta_0 \subset B'_p(y, \epsilon) + \theta_{0,p} = B'_p(y, \epsilon) \subset Y$.

As a consequence of this last equality, one obtains the analog of Proposition 6 from [10].

Proposition 2.8. *A subset K of an asymmetric LCS is $\tau(P)$ -compact if and only if $K + \theta_0$ is $\tau(P)$ -compact.*

Also, if K is $\tau(P)$ -compact, then every subset Z of $K + \theta_0$ is $\tau(P)$ -compact.

Remark 2.9. In the case of an asymmetric normed space (X, p) , Alegre et al. [1] give characterizations of τ_p -compact subsets of X . Among other results, they prove, under some supplementary hypotheses, that a subset K of X is τ_p -compact if and only if there exists a $\tau_{\bar{p}}$ -compact subset K_0 of X such that $K_0 \subset K \subset K + \theta_0$ [1, Theorem 20]. It is possible that similar characterizations hold in the locally convex case, a topic for further investigation.

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